

**COSYNS FARMS**

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September 20, 1999

CALFED Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth Street, #1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Sirs:

The following are my comments for the administrative record during the public comment period for the CALFED Bay-Delta Program.

My family and I have a diversified production agriculture business primarily operating in Madera County. Our products consist of wine grapes, almonds, beans, and alfalfa. I also am the 2nd Vice President of the Madera County Farm Bureau.

The CALFED Bay-Delta Program initiated several years ago by Federal, State and other water interests was to provide a process to plan for California's water future while addressing bay-delta environmental problems. As born and raised California agriculturists, we believe we should be part of that future, but the recently published plan clearly doesn't provide for us. CALFED's emphasis on water transfers, conservation and idling productive farmland overtly leaves agriculture without any water development plan for the future. In addition, its not just agriculture that needs a water development plan, so does the environment for restoration and maintenance, as well as our growing urban population.

CALFED must change and refocus their plan to develop water storage for California's current and future demands. Without more water storage, California and particularly California agriculture, will be severely, negatively impacted. To be more specific, CALFED's plan will sacrifice the most productive, diversified agricultural area in the United States which provides the vast majority of our reliable, high-quality food. People throughout California will suffer from the loss of the state's highly productive farmland, whether they work on the land, live in rural communities or shop at a grocery store in town. Agriculture in California consists of hard working people trying to maintain a way of life for themselves, their employees and their families. As CALFED negatively impacts agriculture, urban areas will also suffer because thousands of urban jobs involve moving, processing and marketing farm products. Is this CALFED's intended legacy?

The CALFED Program must move forward NOW to develop water storage. The storage must be environmentally benign and address the issues and concerns of production

agriculture, the local water districts and stakeholders. As a neighboring landowner of the formerly proposed Madera Ranch Groundwater Bank Project, I fervently hope that CALFED will move quickly and judiciously in developing water storage with projects which are technically, economically and geohydrologically feasible and carry the support of the community.

We can not afford to spend several more years studying water in California. Think of CALFED's legacy to California's future and develop more water storage immediately.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Rick", with a stylized flourish extending from the end.

Rick Cosyns
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RC/leg